

LETTER

TO THE
Freeholders, Citizens and Burgeses,

OF THE
Counties, Cities and Towns

GREAT-BRITAIN.



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A LETTER

TO THE

*Freeholders, Citizens, and Burgeses of the
Counties, Cities, and Towns of Great-
Britain.*

GENTLEMEN,

HERE is NO Natural or Political Body but is subject to the Variations and Injuries of Time. Both are composed of Springs, Wheels, and Ligaments, all in perpetual Motion, and all liable to wear out and decay: And as the Parts are Mortal, the Whole must be Mortal too. But as natural Bodies may continue their Existence, and preserve their Duration, by Action, by the Addition of new Particles, or by removing from Time to Time all occasional Obstructions which elog their Motion and check their Vigour, as long as their Stamina, first Principles, or original Constitution is capable of subsisting; so a political Machine may do the same: And some Writers in Politicks have asserted that the same might be immortal; which is not my Opinion.

But whether this is true or not, certain it is, that in many Respects a Political Body has the Advantage of a Natural One. We can often look into its inmost Frame and Contexture; and when any of its constituent Parts are decay'd or worn out, can supply it with new ones (which cannot be done in the other, without a total



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tal Dissolution of the Fabrick:) And we can frequently annex Additional Props and Buttresses to support for some Time a tottering Building, and hinder it from falling upon our Heads. This is often all that can be done in decay'd Governments, when a State is in a Catahexy; and this is what is every honest Man's Duty to do, when he can do no better. But I thank God the Constitution of *England* is yet Sound and Vigorous: Many of its Parts are active and strong; and if some Members are corrupted or decay'd, there are Materials to supply the Defect. There is Wealth and Power in being: Our Country abounds with Men of Courage and Understanding; nor are there wanting those of Integrity and Publick Spirit: There is an ardent Desire and diffusive Love of Liberty throughout the Kingdom; and many begin to be tir'd, sick and ashamed of Party-Animosities, and of quarelling with their Neighbours, their Relations, and often with their best Friends, to gratifie the Pride, the Ambition and Rapine of those who only sell and betray them. It is yet in our Power to save our selves, and most Men have Inclinations to do it; and it is only owing to the Art and Address of our common Enemies, if we do not agree on the Means of doing it.

I dare therefore affirm, that there is such a general Disposition towards Liberty through the whole Kingdom, that if there shall be found in the next House of Commons as many honest bold and wise Men as wou'd have sav'd *Sodom* and *Gomorrah*, *England* is yet safe, in spite of all the Efforts of Delusion and Bribery: And I dare as freely affirm that, if some vigorous and bold Resolutions are not there taken to assist our most excellent King towards discharging the publick Debts, and in redressing all sorts of publick Corruptions, the Liberty of *Great Britain*—My Heart can speak no more.

It lies upon you Gentlemen, to give Motion to the Machine: You are the first Springs that give Life to all Virtuous Resolutions: Such as you shew your selves, such will be your Representatives: Such as is the Tree, such will be the Fruit. Choose honest Men, free and independent Men, and they will act honestly for the Publick Interest, which is your Interest. It is not to be expected that Criminals will destroy their own Handywork; that they will

reform or punish themselves; or, that Men, who have brought our Misfortunes, upon us will go about in good Earnest to cure them, or even own that there are any such. Besides, deep Wounds must be probed and searched to the Core before they can be cured; and those who gave them can seldom bear to see the Operation, much less will they pay for the Cure, if they can be at ease by the Death of the Patient.

Let us not therefore, my Countrymen, desert or deceive ourselves, or think we can be safe, if ever such Men can get into Power. Let us not again be deluded with false Promises and deceitful Assurances, but let us judge what Men will do by what they have done. What warm and plausible Remonstrances have you formerly heard and received? What impetuous Storms and Hurricanes of false and counterfeit Zeal against Oppressions and Miscarriages in the late Reigns, against exorbitant Pensions, outrageous Taxes, wild and expensive Expeditions; against encreasing the Publick Debts; against standing Troops quartered up and down your Countries; against oppressive Companies, to the Destruction of your Trade and Industry; against private Mens raising immense Estates upon your Ruin: and against their bribing and corrupting the Guardians of the publick Liberty?— And are you at last perfectly easy in every one of those Complaints.

Now, therefore, my best Friends, is the Time to help yourselves: Now act honestly and boldly for Liberty, or so get the glorious and charming Sound. Let not a publick Traytor come within the Walls of your Cities and Towns, without treating him as an Enemy to your King and Country deserves. Throw your Eye about your several Countries, and chuse your Patrons, your Protectors, your Neighbours and your known Friends; chuse for your Representatives Men whose Interests are blended with your own; Men who have had no Hands dipt in the Publick Spoils, but have suffered by them as much as you your selves have suffered; Men who have not jobb'd for Stock, nor for Wages, nor for you.

Make not so foolish a Bargain, as for a little loose Money, to give up desperately all you have, your Liberties, your Estates, your Families. Is it for your sakes, think you, that these Jobbers of Stocks, and of Honesty, and of their Country, come to care for you,
flatter

flatter you, and bow to you? Do you, or can you believe that they ~~come to~~ impair their own Fortunes, to increase yours? Or think you not that they will have their Pennyworths out of you? Depend upon it, they will; and, for every Bucket of Water thrown into your Wells, they will pump out Tuns.

Reason not therefore, as too many of you have done, and I fear yet do, that, since those you trust make personal Advantages of your Confidence and Credulity, you ought to share in those Advantages. But throw your Choice upon such who will neither buy you nor sell you. Whoever purchases an Office at more than it is honestly worth, must be supported by him who sells it, in all dishonest Gains, or else he will call for his Money again, if he knows how to get it. No Man will bribe you into your own Interests, or give you Money that he may have leave to serve you by his own Labour, and at his further Expence; but will think himself at Liberty to mak Reprisals: He will find no Difficulty in himself to sell those, who have before sold themselves and their Country: Nor can you have any Right or Pretence to reprove one that does so.

Mistake not, my Countrymen, in believing that Men in your Condition and Circumstances are too low for the Scythe, and that you can shrink out of publick Misfortunes. For you, Gentlemen, are the first Principles of Wealth and Power. From your Labour and Industry arises all that can be called Riches, and by your Hands it must be defended: Kings, Nobility, Gentry, Clergy, Lawyers, and military Officers, do all support their Grandeur by your Sweat and Hazard, and in Tyrannical Governments upon the Peoples Spoils: They there riot upon the Subsistence of the poor People, whose Poverty is their Riches. In corrupt Administrations, your Superiors of all Kinds make Bargains, and pursue Ends at the publick Expence, and grow rich by making the People poor.

You feel the first Effects of tyrannical Government, and Great Men are generally made the Instruments of it, and reap the Advantages. Exorbitant Taxes, want of Trade, decay of Manufactures, discouragement of Industry; Insolence and Oppression of Soldiers, Exactions of Civil Officers; Ignorance, Superstition, and Bigotry; are all the constant Concomitants of Tyranny, and al-
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ways produce it, and are produced by it: And all these terrible Evils must fall most signally upon the middle and inferior Ranks of Mankind: There must be a great Number of Slaves to furnish up one grand Monarch, and the Poor People must be those Slaves. He must engage many in his Interest, before he can establish a Power which destroys the rest; and all these many must be supported, and have their Condition better'd by the Change; and all this Charge and Expence the wretched People must work for and pay.

Forget therefore, Gentlemen, the Foolish and Knavish Distinction of *High Church* and *Low Church*, *Whig* and *Tory*, Sounds of which continue in your Mouths when the Meaning of them is gone, and are now only used to set you together by the Ears, that Rogues may pick your Pockets. I own my self to be one of those, whom one Side in Respect, and the other in Contumely call *Whigs*; and yet I never discours'd with a candid and sensible *Tory*, who did not concur with me in Opinion, when we explain'd our Intentions. We both agreed in our Notions of old *English Liberty*, in a Passion for Freedom to our selves, and to procure it for every one else: We were both for preserving the *English Monarchy*, and the Legal Constitution of the National Church against its Enthusiastick Friends and Enemies; and were for giving Liberty of Conscience to those, who through a prejudiced Education, or, as we believ'd a less Capacity of Judging, were so unhappy as to think differently from our selves, in an Affair which concerned us not, and which we had nothing to do with.

We both honoured and resolved to preserve upon the Throne, our most excellent Sovereign King GEORGE, and to endeavour to continue him a glorious King over honest Men, and Freemen; and not to attempt to make him what he scorns to be made, a Patron of Parasites, and a Lord of Slaves: And we thought we could not shew our Duty more effectually, then in bringing to exemplary Punishment, all who had betray'd him and us: We wished the old Names of Distinction and Faction buried deep as the Center, and nothing heard in their Room, but Court and Country, Protestant and Papist, Freemen and Slaves. It will lie at your Door, Gentlemen, to put an End to the above silly and wicked

wicked Gibberish. Choose those who have no Interest to continue it, and it will not be continued.

Consider, my dear Friends and Countrymen, what I have said and think what you are doing, while you are raising Hue and Cry after Men who will betray you; while you are sending afar for Courtiers, for Directors of Bubbles, for Company-men, and publick Pick Pockets, to represent you; while you are giving up, perhaps for ever, to the Mercy of Blood Suckers, your honest Industry, and the just Profits of your Trade, for a poor momentary Share of their infamous Plunder; and thereby bring a Canker upon your Substance, and the just Resentment of Heaven upon your Endeavours. Shew your selves once, and once for all, Britons and Freemen, and not foreign and saleable Slaves; shew that you know how to honour your King, and yet to keep your Liberties; that you obey him out of Choice, and not out of servile Fear; that you know how to distinguish your Loyalty to your Prince, from a Blind Submission to his and your own Servants; and that you can make your Duty to him consistent with a vigorous Resolution, to punish all who betray him and you.

If you did but know, Gentlemen, how you are us'd above, by those who think it worth their Time to flatter you below, and to your Faces, you would not want my Advice and Admonitions. You are call'd the Mobb, the Canal, the stupid Herd, the Dregs and Beasts of the People, and your Interest is never thought off by those Men who thus misceal you; Men who have no more Wit, and much less Honesty than your selves; and Men whose Insolence and Sauciness are owing to Wealth, which they have plunder'd from you. It depends now upon your selves, whether you will deserve these base and reproachful Names or not; shew that you are Men, and you will be us'd like Men; but if you sell your selves like the Beasts in the Field, the Purchasers will have a Right to sell you again, and make honest Gains out of a villanous Bargain.

For my own Particular, I cannot give my self leave to despair of you, because I must at the same Time despair of old English Liberty: You are our *Alpha* and *Omega*, our first and last Resource; and when your Virtue is gone, all is gone. It is true, you have a wife

wise and a Virtuous Prince at present, who will not take Advantage of your Follies, and you may depend upon the same Security from his Son: But neither he nor his Son, nor his Family is Immortal; and therefore, I hope you will act wisely, and trust to your selves alone. But whatever Part, Gentlemen, you shall think fit to take, you shall not do it Blindfold, and in the Dark. You shall have the fair and dark Side of your Conduct laid before you, and then you may chuse whether you will be Freemen or Vassals; whether you will spend your own Money and Estates, or let others worse than you, spend them for you: Methinks the Choice should be easy. You shall hear more from me upon this Subject; and you may believe me,

GENTLEMEN,

*Your very sincere and
most affectionate humble Servant,*

CATO.



A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

That a compleat Collection of the Protests of the Lords during this last Session of Parliament, are to be Sold by Mr. *Alexander Symmers* at his Shop in the Parliament Closs, where the *Scots Gard'ner* is to be Sold.

